

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 19, 2003

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 143**

**Introduced by Senator Cedillo**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl and Vincent)**

February 6, 2003

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An act to add Section 1250.15 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 143, as amended, Cedillo. Acute care hospitals: patient needs.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of general acute care hospitals, acute psychiatric hospitals, and other health facilities by the State Department of Health Services.

This bill would require the department to adopt regulations on or before January 1, 2010, to establish a common patient classification or acuity ~~system~~ *systems* to be used by all general acute care hospitals and acute psychiatric hospitals to determine the level of nursing care needed for each category of patient in each unit and on each shift, *in accordance with specified requirements*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The intent of the Legislature in enacting this act
- 2 is to do all of the following:
- 3 (a) Promote the public interest to assure that all residents of this
- 4 state have reasonable access to quality health care.

1 (b) Facilitate the provision of quality, cost-effective nursing  
2 services in acute care hospitals.

3 (c) Establish a standard system of classifying patients in acute  
4 care hospitals according to the severity of the medical condition of  
5 each patient.

6 SEC. 2. Section 1250.15 is added to the Health and Safety  
7 Code, to read:

8 1250.15. (a) On or before January 1, 2010, the department  
9 shall adopt regulations to establish a common patient classification  
10 or acuity-system ~~systems~~ to be used by all general acute care  
11 hospitals and acute psychiatric hospitals to determine the level of  
12 nursing care needed for each category of patient in each unit and  
13 on each shift.

14 (b) *The regulations adopted by the department shall provide for*  
15 *separate common patient classification systems for general acute*  
16 *care hospitals and for acute psychiatric hospitals.*

17 (c) *In developing the common patient classification systems*  
18 *required by subdivision (a), the department may take into account*  
19 *variations among hospitals in operating characteristics that the*  
20 *department determines are related to the level and type of nursing*  
21 *care that the patients need, as well as the specific needs of rural*  
22 *hospitals, while ensuring appropriate patient care.*

